

FENTON et al.
Application No. 09/936,178
November 26, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Currently, claims 1-20 and 22-31 are pending in this application.

Objection to the Drawings:

Figs. 1-3 and 5-7 were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they allegedly fail to show a legend describing the numbers as described in the specification. Replacement sheets of drawings are attached hereto which provide appropriate labels to the elements illustrated in Figs. 1-3 and 5-7. Applicant thus requests that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter:

The Office Action objected to claims 9 and 19 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but held that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this Amendment, claims 9 and 19 have been rewritten in independent form. Claims 9 and 19 are therefore allowable.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 1-8, 10-18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Houde et al (U.S. '678, hereinafter "Houde"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

For a reference to anticipate a claim, each element must be found, either expressly or under principles of inherency, in the reference. Houde fails to

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disclose each element of the claimed invention. For example, Houde fails to disclose a visited network being a visited “fixed” network, as required by independent claims 1-3 and 11-13 and their respective dependents. A “fixed” network is a network having fixed user terminals, rather than, for example, the fixed part of a cellular network.

Claims 1 and 11 further require a visitor node located in the visited fixed network being supplied with the identity of a user-selected fixed termination. The Office Action apparently alleges that this feature corresponds to the IMSI of the roaming terminal of Houde. However, the IMSI is not the identity of a user-selected fixed termination. The IMSI is a user identity, associated with the cellular telephone (i.e., not a fixed terminal).

Through the above feature of claims 1 and 11, a visitor node registered as a proxy with the home node is an individual fixed terminal. The home node therefore can route calls directly to the proxy visitor node. In a cellular system, the home node (the HLR of the user) is only informed of the identity of the visited network (VLR) and not the individual base station of that network. The VLR of the visited network handles changes as a mobile unit moves from one base station to another.

Houde therefore does not make use of a visited fixed network, let alone supplying a visitor node which is located in the visited fixed network with the

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identity of a user-selected fixed termination as further required by independent claims 1 and 11.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1-8, 10-18 and 20 are not anticipated by Houde and respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §102 be withdrawn.

New Claims:


New (dependent) claims 22-31 have been added to provide additional protection for the invention. Applicant submits that these new claims are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to their respective base claims.

Conclusion:

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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Abstract

Mobility Management

A user is registered to use telecommunications services provided by a home service provider in a wired home network. When the user travels, the user may be provided with telecommunications services by another service provider operating in a wired visited fixed network. The user “attaches” himself/herself to the visited fixed network which includes nominating a telephone to which calls made to a user’s personal number may be forwarded. The user is also assigned a prefix number which enables him/her to make calls from any phone in the visited fixed network.